

Music 2695A - Introduction to Electroacoustic Music
Department of Music Research and Composition
Don Wright Faculty of Music
Western University
Fall - 2021

Course Calendar Description

A practical introduction to electroacoustic music composition, including digital hardware and software. Students will study appropriate concepts, terminology, and repertoire, and will compose original music in the electroacoustic medium.

Prerequisite(s):

Music 1651A/B – Studies in Music Theory II, or the former Music 1650A/B, or permission of the department

Extra Information: 3 hours, 0.5 course

Please note that prerequisites are no longer automatically checked prior to course registration. It is the responsibility of each student to ensure that he or she has the specified prerequisites. Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Meetings

- Tuesday 10:30am-11:20am (1x 50 min.) MusicLab, TC200*
- Friday 10:30am-12:20am (2x 50 min. with 10 min. break) MusicLab, TC200*

Classes will be held in-person in the computer lab located in TC200. A number of class meetings **may be conducted in the CEARP Studio, located in TC344B. If class is going to be conducted in this alternate location and this room change is not explicitly stated on the Course Schedule, **prior notice will be given to students one lecture in advance of the meeting**, and an email will be sent out to all students informing them of the location change.*

Instructor Dr. Jason Stanford – jstanfo@uwo.ca Office: TC344

Office Hours: by individual appointment

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course students will be able and discuss, in detail, concepts pertaining to the materials, techniques, and technologies utilized in the creation of electro-acoustic music. Students will also apply these concepts in the creation of their own electro-acoustic music compositions.

Music 2695A fulfils one of the requirements to take the advanced course: Music 3696B – Electro-Acoustic Music. Additional pre-requisites to take Music 3696B are either Music 2629 – Composition I, or Music 1629A/B – Introduction to Composition.

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Course Activities

The activities of the course will include active reduced listening, discussion, and analysis of repertoire and recordings, presentation and discussion of student works-in-progress, two Compositional Etudes and 6 written/aural quizzes, two written/aural tests, a final Term Composition, and the (potential) presentation of the composition in concert**.

***Presentation/performance of a composition in the Electroacoustic Music Concert in December 2021 is a privilege that must be earned; suitable compositions for presentation will be completed on or in advance of the project deadline and will possess a high standard of technical polish and aesthetic interest.*

A detailed, week-by-week schedule of class activities will be provided as a separate document entitled: *Music 2695A-2021 Class Schedule*. For a listing of important due dates see the **Key Dates** section of this syllabus.

Attendance is mandatory (6% of final grade). Regular attendance will ensure adequate progress in this course. Students are required to sign an attendance sheet for the Tuesday 1-hour (50 minute) lecture and Friday 2-hour (2x 50-minutes) session every week.

Assignments **may** be given verbally, or in writing during lectures, and may include quizzes on concepts including but not limited to: history, terminology, and technology. Some assignments require students to demonstrate skill and facility in the use of specific hardware and/or software.

Students will be tested on key historical, theoretical, and technological concepts, and each listening portion of each test will require students to identify compositions by: composer, title of composition, date of composition, and any number of unique, novel, or interesting features of the composition. Six short quizzes in aural/written quizzes will be given during Friday lectures starting in Week 2. A written/listening test will be given in Week 5 of the semester; another written/listening test will be given in Week 9 of the semester. **You may be quizzed or tested on anything I say in class – take notes.** See the **Key Dates** portion of this syllabus for details.

All work in this course is to be completed outside of class time within the TC200 Computer Lab (or CEARP), the exception being when supervised in-class work time is allotted by the instructor. Students are permitted to drop-in to use computers within TC200 as often as desired, or required, during regularly scheduled unsupervised free times (when no other course is being taught in TC200).

The key to success in this course is regular work, if you invest the time, you will understand key concepts and be able to effectively apply these concepts to your own work.

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Please do not underestimate the time required to master hardware and software concepts to the point of being able to wield these resources creatively. Progress comes from regular work, from signing-up and utilizing your available time in the TC200 Computer Lab (and/or CEARP). Believe me when I say that you cannot cram in order to demonstrate creative or technical facility through hardware/software.

Course Materials and Resources

Textbooks

There is no textbook for this course. Course readings, if any, will be drawn from a variety of different resources, and will be available on the 2695A-2021 OWL Resources page and/or may be sent to students via email and/or made available online.

Notebooks

There will be a lot of hand-outs for this class, and to keep these hand-outs together, please utilize a 3-ring binder.

In addition to a binder, you will find that a notebook will come in handy to jot down important points from lectures, as well as to keep a record of your own technical and creative experiments. Notebooks work best when entries are clearly dated.

A class notebook is both an important ***organizational*** and ***learning*** tool, since it will contain:

- Salient points about techniques, methods, musical works, and other concepts presented and discussed during lectures
- Your own proposals and/or objectives – the purpose of your work session in the TC200 Computer Lab and/or CEARP: what concepts you wish to explore or what goals you wish to attain during each studio session
- observations, thoughts, considerations, hypotheses, conclusions
- results of experimentation: what ideas worked, what ideas did not work, what outcomes were achieved
- new proposals/objectives/hypotheses to test based upon new evidence
- what to try or explore during the next session
- a journal of your activities, detailing your technical and creative activities will aid you in troubleshooting and debugging techniques, you will be able to look back and see your progress charted over the entire semester

Listening List

The entire listening list for the course will be available on the desktop of each iMac computer located in TC200. A copy of the list will also be accessible in the Music Library on course reserve as uncompressed .WAV audio files on a USB stick (***PLEASE do not erase*** the contents of this stick by *dragging-and-dropping* files onto your computer, rather *copy- and- paste* the content).

Hardware and software manuals in PDF format are located on each manufacturer's website, or available as HELP files/tutorial files within the programs themselves.

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Storage Media

Students *should* bring a form of removable storage media to TC200 for the purpose of backing up data and archiving work. Unexpected hardware/software failures can and do occur without warning – the regular backup of data *is mandatory*. The University will not be responsible for damaged or lost data. Since most of the creative work in this course is data – if your data is corrupted or irretrievable, so too is your creative work! *Typical requirements per student may include the following: USB memory stick (USB3 large capacity – 16-32GB are inexpensive to purchase)*

Optional Materials

Software

Most of the practical and creative work of this course is completed using either the Digital Audio Workstation (DAW) **Avid Pro Tools**, or the object-oriented programming environment **Max8** by Cycling'74 (or alternative software titles, if required). You are not required to purchase either title for the course, as versions of each software title are available for use in the TC200 Computer Lab (and/or CEARP).

For those interested in having a personal version of these software titles on your own computer:

*Avid Pro Tools is available for purchase directly from Avid as either a yearly subscription for \$99 US, or a monthly subscription for \$9.99 US/month. ****Note: Sessions created in ProTools Free are incompatible with the full version of Pro Tools used in this course***
http://shop.avid.com/ccrz__products?operation=quickSearch&searchText=Pro+Tools+Academic

Max8 (which includes: Max, MSP, Jitter, and Gen) is available for purchase at deeply discounted academic pricing (\$250 US for the bundle) or you can purchase a 12-month student license for only \$59 US, or \$9.99 US/month.
<https://auth.cycling74.com/purchase#educational>

Reference Monitoring

An accurate listening environment equals accurate sonic outcomes when recording and composing/producing with digital audio. The TC200 computer lab does not have any speakers connected to the iMac workstations, so all monitoring of work must be done with headphones.

It is strongly suggested that students bring their own headphones to the TC200 Computer Lab for individual work. Headphones should have a 1/8" connector and 1/8" to 1/4" adapter. Any pair of over-the-ear headphones will suffice; airbuds/earbuds are not acceptable for professional monitoring.

If you are interested in purchasing a professional-quality pair of studio reference headphones, please see the attached headphone handout.

CEARP Studio B is equipped with Mackie Hr824 studio reference monitors (loudspeakers).

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Requirements, Dates, and Evaluation
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Compositions will be graded 50/50 on technical and creative merits.

Term Composition (and concert presentation*)	30%
Compositional Etudes (2x 15% each)	30%
Written/Aural Quizzes (6x 1.5% each); other written assignments, if any	10%
Written/Aural test 1	12%
Written/Aural test 2	12%
Attendance (including preparation and participation)	<u>6%</u>
	100%

*Consultation with the Instructor during the process of composition is a requirement. The Instructor must see sufficient work-in-progress especially as deadlines, the end of term, and the concert approach. Office hour times are available upon request and subject to the availability of the Instructor.

Electroacoustic Music Concert

Students are expected to participate in the setup, sound check, and the entire duration of the dress rehearsal for the Electroacoustic Music Concert taking place on Tuesday December 7th 2021. Students are also required to participate in the striking and moving of gear back to CEARP after the concert. Setup and dress rehearsal will commence at 9am on the day of the concert in von Kuster Hall. There is a class release for this concert from 9am to 2pm.

Late Submission Policy

Late written work, *Max8* patches, and *Pro Tools* sessions, will only be accepted under the circumstances listed below.

Compositions will only be accepted after their due dates under extenuating circumstances, including documented medical or compassionate grounds, or if accommodation has been requested and given *prior to the due date*. Unfortunately, a Term Composition that is submitted late cannot be included on the Electroacoustic Music Concert, and the student will lose a very important practical learning opportunity, and as a result, a lower grade.

Studio and Technical Support Policies and Procedures

Only students enrolled in Music 2695B are permitted to be in the TC200 Computer Lab (or CEARP), no other individuals are to be permitted access to the TC200 Computer Lab (or CEARP) with you. Please be respectful and considerate of your fellow students by leaving the studio/lab in a clean and usable condition for the next user. Report any hardware/software technical problems immediately to the instructor.

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CEARP

If TC344B is employed for the purposes of this course on an individual basis, students must log-in and log-out every time they use the studio. Students can access room TC344B during times they have signed up for, or any other time the studio is unoccupied, 24/7 subject to change. Spontaneous unscheduled use of the studio is permitted on a first-come-first-served basis.

*****Absolutely***** no food or drink are allowed in CEARP

The logbook has space for user comments related to the technical operations of the lab. If equipment fails, please:

- 1) enter general information about the malfunction into the log book
- 2) report the malfunction by immediately emailing the instructor

While equipment is in service, it is usually unavailable for use, during which time students are expected to pursue related kinds of artistic investigation and experimentation in the studio.

Safety Information

If a small fire starts in the vicinity of TC344B and is no larger than a basketball, turn off the two switches that power the equipment; you may attempt to extinguish the fire with the fire extinguisher or by smothering it. If the fire is not limited to a small area, or if you are unfamiliar or unsure how to use a fire extinguisher, or if you have failed in your attempt to extinguish a small fire, you should get out and stay out. Never enter a room if you suspect a fire inside. Upon detection of smoke and/or fire, follow the **R-A-C-E** plan:

Rescue/Remove person(s) from the immediate fire scene/room

Alert personnel by activating the nearest fire alarm pull station and call 9-1-1

Confine fire and smoke by closing all doors in the area

Extinguish a small fire by using portable fire extinguisher or use to escape larger fire

Evacuate the building immediately and, once outside, report to your supervisor, Building Emergency Team, or Emergency Personnel.

The local First-Aid Station (for minor injuries) is located in the Music Library.

Notes

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1.) Course Prerequisites

As mentioned previously the prerequisite for Music 2695A is the successful completion of Music 1651A/B, or the former Music 1650AB. If you do not meet the prerequisites for this course or obtain special permission from your Dean to enroll then you will be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to meet the prerequisites.

2.) Grading scale

A+=90-100%, A=80-89%, B=70-79%, C=60-69%, D=50-59%, F=0-49%.

3.) Academic Consideration for Student Absence

Students will have up to two (2) opportunities during the regular academic year to use an on-line portal to self-report an absence during the term, provided the following conditions are met: the absence is no more than 48 hours in duration, and the assessment for which consideration is being sought is worth 30% or less of the student's final grade. Students are expected to contact their instructors within 24 hours of the end of the period of the self-reported absence, unless noted on the syllabus. Students are not able to use the self-reporting option in the following circumstances:

- for exams scheduled by the Office of the Registrar (e.g., December and April exams)
- absence of a duration greater than 48 hours,
- assessments worth more than 30% of the student's final grade,
- if a student has already used the self-reporting portal twice during the academic year

If the conditions for a Self-Reported Absence are not met, students will need to provide a Student Medical Certificate if the absence is medical or provide appropriate documentation if there are compassionate grounds for the absence in question. Students are encouraged to contact their Faculty academic counselling office to obtain more information about the relevant documentation.

Students should also note that individual instructors are not permitted to receive documentation directly from a student, whether in support of an application for consideration on medical grounds, or for other reasons. All documentation required for absences that are not covered by the Self-Reported Absence Policy must be submitted to the Academic Counselling office. For the Western University policy on Consideration for

Student Absence, see:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic_Consideration_for_absences.pdf

and for the Student Medical Certificate (SMC), see:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf

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Special Note for Covid-19-related Situations:

As a guideline, if a student has been contacted by the Middlesex-London Health Unit (MLHU) to self-quarantine due to a Covid-19-related situation, then the Self-Reported Absence system is not to be used to report this absence or to request an academic accommodation. The student should contact the Academic Counselling office as soon as they are notified.

In general, students are advised to not self-determine when to self-isolate. Unless directed by the MLHU students should go about their business as usual. But if a student chooses to self-isolate due to a suspected Covid-19-related situation while waiting to receive direction from the MLHU then the student is directed to contact the Academic Counselling office as soon as possible for further direction on receiving accommodation consideration.

4.) Academic Consideration for Missing Work

In cases where students miss work that is worth 30% or less of the total course grade due to medical illness or compassionate grounds, if an online absence report is submitted using the new Self-Reporting Absence Portal, or if documentation is voluntarily submitted to the Associate Dean's office and the Associate Dean deems that accommodation is warranted, then the missed assignment(s) or quiz(zes) may be discounted in the calculation of the final grade for the course. If documentation is not submitted voluntarily then the missed assignment(s) or quiz(zes) will receive a grade of zero.

5.) At least three days prior to the deadline for withdrawal from a 1000- or 2000-level course without academic penalty, students will receive assessment of work accounting for at least 15% of their final grade.

6.) Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western at the following website https://www.uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/ for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

7.) Students may be excused to observe a religious holy day of their faith without penalty provided they notify the instructor in advance. Students are responsible for material covered in their absence and each student shall be permitted a reasonable amount of time to make up missed work.

8.) If you require academic accommodations because of a disability, please let the instructor know during the first week of classes, and, if you have not done so already, register as soon as possible with Accessible Education (formerly known as Services for Students with Disabilities). You can learn more about the Student Success Centre's services for accessible education at <http://success.uwo.ca/academics/sas/index.html>.

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- 9.) Hand in assignments to the instructor at the beginning of class on the day for which the assignment is due. Never leave completed assignments in faculty mailboxes in the main office and do not slide them under the instructor's door. Acceptance of late assignments will be at the discretion of the instructor and only if extenuating circumstances prevail; otherwise late assignments will not be graded.
- 10.) Complete assignments neatly using a clear and organized approach within software utilized for each project (Pro Tools and Max8, or other). Max8 patches are to be clearly and neatly organized in a manner that demonstrates signal/control flow. Submitted Pro Tools sessions are to be well-organized, with any extraneous, un-used materials/tracks removed from the final version submitted for assessment by the instructor.
- 11.) Plagiarism: Complete assignments independently. Submission of work with which you have received help from someone else (other than the course instructor or TA) is an example of plagiarism. Plagiarism is a major academic offence. Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following website:
- http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf
- 12.) The in-class use of electronic devices other than the iMac computers in T200 for class work or for accessing OWL materials for this class is expressly prohibited. Please turn off all mobile devices during lectures. Laptops or tablets are only permitted if they are being used as study aids, and if prior accommodation for their use has been requested and granted. Students guilty of disrupting class with electronic devices will be asked to leave the class and will not be permitted to re-enter the class with their device until they can satisfactorily prove to the instructor that their device will no longer be a disruption.
- 13.) **Class Schedule of Curricular Materials**
The Class Schedule for Music 2695A 2021 is provided as a general guide through the materials and topics to be covered within this course. The presentation of curricular materials in this class may, on occasion, deviate from the timetable of the provided class schedule as required, depending upon the progress of the class through the course materials. At times, we may dwell longer on certain topics or course materials than allotted in the class schedule.

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Notes That Specifically Address Covid-19-related issues should they arise during 2021-22

- 14.) Contingency Plan: In the event of a COVID-19 resurgence during the course that necessitates the course delivery moving away from face-to-face interaction, all remaining course content will be delivered entirely online, either synchronously (i.e., at the times indicated in the timetable) or asynchronously (e.g., posted on OWL, or other online platform with links provided to students via OWL, for students to view at their convenience). The grading scheme will not change. Any remaining assessments will also be conducted online at the discretion of the course instructor.
- 15.) Recording of Online/In-Class Activities: All of the remote learning sessions, if any, for this course will be recorded. The data captured during these recordings may include your image, voice recordings, chat logs and personal identifiers (name displayed on the screen). The recordings will be used for educational purposes related to this course, including evaluations. The recordings may be disclosed to other individuals participating in the course for their private or group study purposes. Please contact the instructor if you have any concerns related to session recordings. Participants in this course are not permitted to record the sessions, except where recording is an approved accommodation, or the participant has the prior written permission of the instructor.
- 16.) Online Etiquette: Some components of this course may involve synchronous online interactions. To ensure the best experience for both you and your classmates, please honour the following rules of etiquette:
- Use your computer and/or laptop if possible (as opposed to a cell phone or tablet)
 - “Arrive” to class on time
 - Ensure that you are in a private location to protect the confidentiality of discussions in the event that a class discussion deals with sensitive or personal material
 - To minimize background noise, kindly mute your microphone for the entire class until you are invited to speak, unless directed otherwise
 - Unless invited by your instructor, do not share your screen in the meeting
 - In order to give us optimum bandwidth and web quality, please turn off your video camera for the entire class unless you are invited to speak
 - prepared to turn your video camera off at the instructor’s request if the internet connection becomes unstable

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17.) The course instructor will act as moderator for the class and will deal with any questions from participants. To participate please consider the following:

- If you wish to speak, select the blue “raise hand” function and wait for the instructor to acknowledge you before beginning your comment or question.
- Kindly remember to unmute your microphone and turn on your video camera before speaking.
- Self-identify when speaking.
- Kindly remember to select the “raise hand” function again to lower your hand, mute your mic and turn off your video camera after speaking (unless directed otherwise).

General considerations of “netiquette”:

- Keep in mind the different cultural and linguistic backgrounds of the students in the course.
- Be courteous toward the instructor, your colleagues, and authors whose work you are discussing.
- Be respectful of the diversity of viewpoints that you will encounter in the class and in your readings. The exchange of diverse ideas and opinions is part of the scholarly environment.

18.) Note that disruptive behaviour of any type during online classes, including inappropriate use of the chat function, is unacceptable. Students found guilty of “Zoom-bombing” a class, or of other serious online offenses, may be subject to disciplinary measures under the Code of Student Conduct.

19.) E-Proctoring: Tests and examinations in this course will be conducted using Zoom. You will be required to keep your camera on for the entire session, hold up your student card for identification purposes, and share your screen with the invigilator if asked to do so at any time during the exam. The exam session will not be recorded.* More information about the use of Zoom for exam invigilation is available in the Online Proctoring

Guidelines at the following link:

<https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/onlineproctorguidelines.pdf>

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Completion of this course will require you to have a reliable internet connection and a device that meets the system requirements for Zoom. Information about the system requirements are available at the following link: <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us>

* Please note that Zoom servers are located outside Canada. If you would prefer to use only your first name or a nickname to login to Zoom, please provide this information to the instructor in advance of the test or examination.

Key Dates

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<u>Date</u>	<u>Assignment</u>
Tuesday September 14, 2021	1 - Compositional Etude No.1 – Assigned + - Due in 3 weeks
Friday September 17, 2021	2 - Quiz No.1
Friday September 24, 2021	3 - Quiz No.2
Friday October 1, 2021	4 - Quiz No.3
Tuesday October 5, 2021	+ - <u>Compositional Etude No.1 - Due</u> 5 - Compositional Etude No.2 - Assigned + - Due in 3 weeks
Friday October 8, 2021	6 - Test No.1
Friday October 15, 2021	7 - Quiz No.4
Friday October 22, 2021	8 - Quiz No.5
Tuesday October 26, 2021	+ <u>Compositional Etude No.2 – Due</u> 9 Term Composition - Assigned + Due in 4 weeks (+ Reading Week*)
Friday October 29, 2021	10 - Quiz No.6
Monday November 1 - Friday November 5, 2021	Fall Reading Week – No Classes – University is Open
Friday November 12, 2021	11 - Test No.2
Tuesday November 30, 2021	+ - <u>Term Composition – Due</u> + - 4 weeks to complete (+ Reading Week*)
Tuesday December 7, 2021	+ - Electro-Acoustic Music Concert – von Kuster Hall + - Set-Up/Dress Rehearsal: 9am-12pm + - Concert: 12:30-1:20pm + - Tear-Down: 1:30-2pm

*students are not required to work on their Term Composition over Reading Week

Important Sessional Dates

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2021

Monday September 6	Labour Day	Official Holiday – University is closed
Wednesday September 8	Classes Resume	
Friday September 10	Music 2695A-2021 – First Meeting	
Thursday September 16	last day to add a full course, or a first-term half course	
Monday October 11	Thanksgiving	Official Holiday – University is Closed
Monday November 1-7	Fall Reading Week	No Classes – University is Open
Tuesday November 30	Last day to drop a full course and full-year half course without penalty	
Wednesday December 8	Fall/Winter Term Classes End	
Thursday December 9	Study Day	
Friday December 10-21	Exam Period	

2022

Monday January 3	Classes resume	
Tuesday January 11	Last day to add a second-term half course or a second-term full course	
February 19-27	Spring Reading Week - No Classes – University is Open	
[February 21]	Family Day	Official Holiday – University is Closed
Monday March 07	Last day to drop a second-term half course, or a second-term full course without academic penalty	
Friday April 1	Fall/Winter Term classes end, <i>no fooling!</i>	
Saturday April 2-3	Study Days.	
Monday April 4-30	Final examination period	